

## EXCISE BILL DISCUSSED.

HARBURGER TRIES TO GET HIS MEASURE OUT OF COMMITTEE.

Motion Lost, 74 to 61—Brennan's Bill for a State Bridge Commission to Construct a Bridge Over the East River Is Advanced.

ALBANY, March 1.—For three hours to-day the Assembly listened to a discussion of the alleged merits of Assemblyman Julius Harburger's local option excise measure and the demerits, from a Democratic viewpoint, of the present Liquor Tax law. The discussion of the measure arose on Mr. Harburger's motion to discharge the Assembly Excise Committee from further consideration of his bill. Mr. Harburger made one of his characteristic speeches, in which he attacked not only the Baines Liquor Tax law but also those who were instrumental in its enactment. He was supported in his attempt to get his bill before the House by Messrs. Kane of Buffalo and J. E. Smith of New York. Mr. Greenwood of Wayne county, the Chairman of the Assembly Excise Committee, answered effectively Mr. Harburger's argument and said that it was no wonder that "Julius" wanted the antiquated law under which he held a fat office as an Excise Commissioner re-enacted. It was a matter of dollars and cents with Harburger, and not his interest in the beer drinkers of New York city, that caused his unusual interest in excise matters. Mr. Costello of Oswego, who represents the home district of Commissioner of Excise Lyman, spoke in opposition to Mr. Harburger's motion, and presented a petition headed by the leading Catholic clergymen of Oswego in favor of the present excise law. The motion to discharge the committee was lost by a vote of 74 to 61.

Another measure which gave rise to debate was Assemblyman E. C. Brennan's bill authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission of six to construct a new bridge over the East River connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Mr. Green of New York opposed the bill, on the ground that the local authorities had sufficient authority under the city charter to construct all the bridges which the city might need. In this position he was sustained by Messrs. Collins, Roche, Sanders, Gale, Dillon, and Palmer, who asserted that when a new bridge became necessary the Bridge Commissioners appointed under the charter could build a new structure just as satisfactorily to the people of the city as could any commission appointed by the Governor.

Mr. Brennan, however, said that there was considerable doubt about the right of the local authorities to build the navigable waters about New York city, and that there was to doubt about the right of the State so to do. He, in common with a majority of the people of the city, did not believe that the Tammany authorities intended to build a bridge, the necessity for which is unquestioned.

An amendment offered by Mr. Sanders, that the Mayor instead of the Governor, who he said was less responsible than any other to a tremendous majority of New Yorkers, appoint the commission under whose direction the bridge should be built, was lost, and the bill, as introduced, was referred to a special order for Tuesday morning next.

Among the bills reported favorably in the Senate to-day were:

Senator Flinn's bill repealing the provision of law which required that New York city auctioneers to give bonds of \$10,000.

Senator Strauban's amending the Greater New York Tax Law by authorizing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to appropriate annually money to charitable and like institutions in New York city, not exceeding \$100,000, the hours of labor of drug clerks in New York city.

The Senate passed these bills:

Senator Ambler's prohibiting the use of preserves in dairy products.

Senators Flinn and Farnsworth's bill requiring that window guards shall be set on the windows of tenement and lodging houses in New York city.

Senator Elberg's authorizing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the city of New York to add to the amount of the tax on the personal property of Louis M. Hornthal, Richard Kelly, Joseph Yettroch and Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, incurred for 1897-98, \$100,000, to be paid to the State, against them individually and as trustees of the common schools for the Nineteenth ward of the city.

Senator McCarron's, to ratify the opening of Wade's avenue, from Kingsbridge road, near 17th street, to the Bronx River Valley; to provide for the cancellation and refunding of a part of the assessments for acquiring the land.

Senator Gramer and Assemblyman Henderson to-day introduced a bill constituting the Mayors of New York, Yonkers and Mount Vernon, the New York City Commissioners of Streets, the Chairmen of the Water and Sewerage Board, County Board of Supervisors and three citizens of New York and Westchester county to be appointed by the Governor as a commission to inspect and report on the condition of the sewers or sewers in the Bronx River Valley; to turn the Bronx River at Yonkers and Mount Vernon into an outlet into the Hutchinson River, and thus to the construction of a small canal in the Hutchinson River through Westchester and New York counties. The Commissioners are to make a report to the Legislature, and to provide for the cancellation and refunding of a part of the assessments for acquiring the land.

Hearing on the Bill to Tax Cemeteries in Newtown.

ALBANY, March 1.—Assemblyman Wissell's bill to lay a tax of 5 per cent. on the gross receipts of the cemetery corporations in that town and to use the amount received for improvements in the county, was discussed this afternoon before the Assembly Taxation and Finance Committee. The bill, introduced by Senator Louis M. Hornthal, Richard Kelly, Joseph Yettroch and Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, incurred for 1897-98, \$100,000, to be paid to the State, against them individually and as trustees of the common schools for the Nineteenth ward of the city.

Upon the receipt of the petition the Comptroller shall cause the description of the franchise to be published once a week for three successive weeks in the paper and in a newspaper published in the city or a county where such franchise is located, and if no objection is made to the number entered in the borough of Brooklyn last year, against 17,292 interments in the cemeteries of Brooklyn. The committee took action on the bill, and further hearing upon the same having been decided upon.

Mr. Cody's Second Trial to Begin To-Day.

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Assemblyman Samuel Scott Sister of New York introduced a bill requiring that all rights, privileges and franchises for laying wires, cables, pipes, conduits, etc., for the transmission of electricity or any property, substance, power or product under any of the navigable waters of such waters, ferries, steamboats, elevators or other floating structures, or of bridging such waters or of diverting same, or diminishing the flow of any stream, river, or creek, be granted by the State only after a sale of such right, privilege and franchise to the highest bidder. Any person or corporation desiring to obtain any such right, privilege and franchise, must petition to the Comptroller of the State, containing the name of such individual or corporation and the principal place of business, together with a copy of the certificate of incorporation, and the name of each stockholder, and must state the recommendations to the State Legislature. The New York city and Westchester county authorities are to appropriate \$10,000 for the expenses of the bill.

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Assemblyman Collins to-day introduced a bill providing for a uniformity of ordinances affecting the use of bicycles, tricycles and motor cars throughout the State. The bill proposes to give to the State power to promulgate regulations regarding the use of cycles on public highways, streets, avenues, squares and parks within the State.

These other bills were introduced:

Senator Mackay, providing that an injunction or a suit in equity enjoining any labor organization from suspending or expelling members for conducting steam, heat, water, gas, electricity or any property, substance, power or product under any of the navigable waters of such waters, ferries, steamboats, elevators or other floating structures, or of bridging such waters or of diverting same, or diminishing the flow of any stream, river, or creek, be granted by the State only after a sale of such right, privilege and franchise to the highest bidder. Any person or corporation desiring to obtain any such right, privilege and franchise, must petition to the Comptroller of the State, containing the name of such individual or corporation and the principal place of business, together with a copy of the certificate of incorporation, and the name of each stockholder, and must state the recommendations to the State Legislature.

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